ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Kate Stone

By Fernando Ortiz, Jr.

Resources

If you can read only one book

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Organizations

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
https://books.google.com/books?id=kfiCy	This website contains the full text of
YcF0HoC&pg=PR27#v=onepage&q&f=fa	Brokenburn.
<u>lse</u>	

Other Sources

Scholars

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Topic Précis

Kate Stone lived most of her early life at Brokenburn, the family's plantation in Louisiana about 30 miles north west of Vicksburg. The family owned about 150 slaves. Kate attended the Nashville Female Academy in Tennessee. She documented her life from 1861 to 1868 in a diary she named after the plantation. She was fiercely pro-Confederate and her journal captured views typical of her time and class. With her brothers and uncle serving in the Confederate army, Kate focused on activities to help the war effort. Her diary included alternating waves of optimism and dread as she digested the war news. By 1862 at the plantation Kate could hear canon fire at Vicksburg. In January 1863 union troops flooded the area around Brokenburn. In April they fled Brokenburn and moved to Texas. In September they learned of the death of Kate's brother Coleman from wounds sustained in a battle in Mississippi. In late 1863 the family settled in Tyler Texas. Fiercely patriotic to the end of the war Kate applauded John Wilkes Booth. In May 1865 reliable news of Robert E. Lee's surrender finally reached Tyler. Kate was crushed, "Conquered, submission, subjugation' are words that burn into my heart," she wrote in mid-May, "and yet I feel that we are doomed to know them in all their bitterness ... [W]e will be slaves, yes slaves, of the Yankee Government. The degradation seems more than we can bear". The family returned to Brokenburn. was appalled at what she saw. The house was stripped of furnishings. The fields were neglected. And former slaves now expected wages for their labor. "How I fear that the life at Tyler has spoiled us for plantation life," she wrote. "Everything seems sadly out of time". The plantation never recovered financially. After the war, Stone wrote less regularly in the diary. In late 1869, she married Henry Holmes, a former Confederate officer. They had four children. Stone died in late December 1907, age 66, in Tallulah, Louisiana.
